

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) An [[A]] improved game ball comprising:

a core comprising a central core and no more than two mantle layers, wherein the central core has ~~having~~ a first hardness;

a first mantle layer surrounding said central core, said first mantle layer having a second hardness, said first hardness being harder than said second hardness; and

a cover surrounding said first mantle layer.

Claim 2. (original) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein said central core comprises a first urethane composition.

Claim 3. (previously presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 2, wherein said first urethane composition includes a first mixture of a polyol and an isocyanate, wherein the mix ratio of polyol to isocyanate is from about 100/80 parts by weight to about 100/40 parts by weight.

Claim 4. (original) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein said first mantle layer comprises a second urethane composition.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 4, wherein said second urethane composition includes a second mixture of a polyol and an isocyanate.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The improved game ball as described in claim 1 [[2]] further comprising:

a second mantle layer positioned between said first mantle layer and said cover, said second mantle layer having a third hardness that is harder than said second hardness of said first mantle layer.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The improved game ball as described in claim 6 [[5]], wherein said second mantle layer comprises a third urethane composition.

Claim 8. (original) The improved game ball as described in claim 7, wherein said third urethane composition includes a first mixture of a polyol and an isocyanate.

Claim 9. (original) The improved game ball as described in claim 5 wherein said central core comprises a diameter substantially between 3.40 inches and 3.44 inches.

Claim 10. (original) The improved game ball as described in claim 5 wherein said first mantle layer comprises a thickness of substantially between 0.05 inches and 0.500 inches.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 6 wherein said second mantle layer comprises a thickness of substantially between 0.05 inches and 0.25 inches.

Claim 12. (previously presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein the combination of said center core and said first mantle layer has a coefficient of restitution at 88 feet-per-second within the range of 0.40 and 0.50.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein the compression of said game ball is less than 475 pounds.

Claim 14. (previously presented) A multi-layer game ball comprising:

a composite core including a central core having a first urethane composition and a first mantle layer having a second urethane composition, wherein said second urethane composition of said first mantle layer is softer than said first urethane composition of said center core; and

a cover surrounding said composite core.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 14 further comprising:

a second mantle layer surrounding said composite core, said second mantle layer positioned between said composite core and said cover, wherein said second mantle layer is harder than said first mantle layer.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 15, wherein said second mantle layer comprises a third urethane composition.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 14 wherein said central core comprises a diameter substantially between 3.40 inches and 3.44 inches.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 14 wherein said first mantle layer comprises a thickness of substantially between 0.05 inches and 0.500 inches.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 14, wherein said composite core has a coefficient of restitution at 88 feet-per-second within the range of 0.40 and 0.50.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The multi-layer game ball as described in claim 1, wherein the compression of said game ball is less than 475 pounds.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 3, wherein the mix ratio of polyol to isocyanate produces a compression of said improved game ball between about 350 lbs. and about 550 lbs.

Claim 22. (previously presented) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein said central core has a weight of between approximately 100 grams and approximately 115 grams, and said first mantle layer has a weight of approximately 50 grams.